



MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ONE AVENUE A · TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376 ·
PHONE: 413-863-3200 EXT 207 - FAX: 413-863-3222

Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 12, 2012

6:30 PM

Town Hall Upstairs Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother—Chair, Deb Picking, Sean Werle and Justin Fermann

Commissioners Absent: Donna Francis and Addie Holland

Staff Present: Walter Ramsey

Meeting called to order by Mark Fairbrother at 6:30 PM

Approval of November 17, 2011 meeting minutes was tabled until next meeting.

1. **Request for Determination of Applicability, #2011-13 by Turners Falls Municipal Airport, Mickey Longo Mgr. 10 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA.** The project involves tree pruning of the airport runway approach for aviation navigation purposes. Proposed work will be performed within the Riverfront Resource Area of the Connecticut River west of Industrial Blvd.

Guests: Brian L Smith P.E., Gale Associates and Erin Gillen Haugh GZA GeoEnvironmental

Brian Smith: This is a fairly small airport project. The trees are growing up and becoming a safety hazard to the aviation space. The section within the riverfront area has very steep slopes. They are thinking of topping the trees at the 10 foot mark and allowing the debris to fall and become part of the natural habitat. There is no need for a NOI as this project falls under the following exemptions: 1) Maintenance of existing structure 2) Vista Pruning – as 90% of the canopy is to remain full. The project will be completed the next month or two. It is within a Natural Heritage Habitat and GZA GeoEnvironmental received a letter from NHESP stating that this work was acceptable under the existing permits at the Turners Falls Airport. The project is matter of safety for maintaining a clear approach to the runway. Woody debris will be left on the slopes to provide habitat and bank stabilization.

Justin Fermann: How often does this cutting need to be done and when will you do it again?

Brian Smith: The record shows that trimming has been about every 10 years. About 10 years ago, the top of the ridge and property line was trimmed and the evidence of the trimming is still clearly visible. The airport is trying to keep on top of these maintenance issues.

Walter R: Why is this not part of vegetation management plan for the Airport?

Brian Smith: The Airport currently does not have the plan in place. The vegetation management plans tend to be done if there are a lot of wetlands involved in the project. There are no other Wetlands jurisdiction issues at the Turners Falls Municipal Airport. The town has an easement over the land with the Power Company, Franklin County Technical School and the Airport all being owners.

Motion made by Sean Werle to issue a negative determination for RDA 2011-13 under Wetland Protection Act exemption 310 CMR 10.58 (6)(A) -maintenance of an existing airport. Seconded by, Deb Picking. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Approve 2012 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule was approved and will be posted as presented.

Motion made by Sean Werle to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Justin Fermann. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM

Approved by: _____ Date: _____